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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/201,484	11/30/1998	J WILTSE CARPENTER	3382-51386	1596

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KLARQUIST SPARKMAN LLP
121 S.W. SALMON STREET
SUITE 1600
PORTLAND, OR 97204

EXAMINER

KOENIG, ANDREW Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2611

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004

28

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/201,484

Applicant(s)

CARPENTER ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew Y Koenig

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2004 (RCE).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 17, 18 and 25-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 17, 18 and 25-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>25</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 19 March 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

2. Regarding claim 1, the applicant argues that Hoarty fails to teaches "a proxy interposed between the server and the client, the proxy including means for translating between the first and second video-on-demand application control protocols." (see pg. 9, para. 5). The examiner disagrees; Hoarty teaches a communications gateway (26) and system management (22), which equates to a proxy, which is interposed between the servers (13) and the clients. Further, the system management receives requests from the clients and placing information on a carrier (first transmission channel) assigned to the user, and instructing the video server to transmit and instructing the client to receive the information (col. 7, ll. 20-48), wherein the interactive programming is a movie. Control data is given the broadest reasonable interpretation in the art, of control data including control commands along with the address information. Since Hoarty teaches changing the addressing scheme between an IP and IHOP, Hoarty teaches translating the received control data (where the control data includes address information along with control commands).

Regarding claim 17, the applicant argues that Hoarty fails to teaches "a second video server application control protocol incompatible with the first video server application control protocol... a proxy server... using the first video server application control protocol, instructing the video server to transmit on the first transmission channel

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... using the second video server application control protocol, instructing the first client to receive on the first transmission channel." (see pg. 17, para. 4). The examiner disagrees; Hoarty teaches a communications gateway (26) and system management (22), which equates to a proxy server computer, which is interposed between the servers (13) and the clients. Further, the system management receives requests from the clients and placing information on a carrier (first transmission channel) assigned to the user, and instructing the video server to transmit and instructing the client to receive the information (col. 7, ll. 20-48), wherein the interactive programming is a movie. Clearly, Hoarty demonstrates a system where the server and client protocols are different, and incompatible in that the message from address information of the first message cannot without being converted.

Regarding claims 31 and 32, the applicant argues that Hoarty fails to teach or suggest a "proxy server... translating the received control data into control data representing a video control action in the second control protocol," as recited in claim 25; similarly recited in claim 28 as "translating the received control data into control data representing a video control action in a second video on-demand server control protocol." The examiner disagrees. Control data is given the broadest reasonable interpretation in the art, of control data including control commands along with the address information. Since Hoarty teaches changing the addressing scheme between an IP and IHOP, Hoarty teaches translating the received control data (where the control data includes address information along with control commands).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 17, 19, 25-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,883,661 to Hoarty.

Regarding claims 17, 31, and 32, Hoarty teaches a television system implementing information services such as video on demand (col. 4, ll. 29-36) employing a system manager and communications gateway (fig. 8, labels 22, 26) that reads on the claimed proxy. Furthermore, Hoarty teaches assigning interactive channels to the users using the system manager (col. 10, ll. 33-41). Hoarty teaches a communications gateway (26) and system management (22), which equates to a proxy server computer, which is interposed between the servers (13) and the clients. Further, the system management receives requests from the clients and placing information on a carrier (first transmission channel) assigned to the user, and instructing the video server to transmit and instructing the client to receive the information (col. 7, ll. 20-48), wherein the interactive programming is a movie. Further, the system of Hoarty readily supports plural clients (abstract); see also plural modulators (27). Hoarty teaches changing the addressing scheme between an IP and IHOP; Hoarty teaches translating the received control data (where the control data includes address information along with control

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commands) (col. 14, ll. 49-55). Clearly, the headend is designed to communicate with clients communicating control data according to the first on-demand video application.

Regarding claim 19, the gateway of Hoarty implements an IP addressing scheme for the server side and IHOP addresses for the client side (col. 14, ll. 49-55), clearly Hoarty demonstrates a system where the server and client protocols are different.

Regarding claims 25 and 28, Hoarty teaches a television system implementing information services such as video on demand (col. 4, ll. 29-36) employing a system manager and communications gateway (fig. 8, labels 22, 26) that reads on the claimed proxy. Furthermore, Hoarty teaches assigning interactive channels to the users using the system manager (col. 10, ll. 33-41). Hoarty teaches a communications gateway (26) and system management (22), which equates to a proxy server computer, which is interposed between the servers (13) and the clients. Further, the system management receives requests from the clients and placing information on a carrier (first transmission channel) assigned to the user, and instructing the video server to transmit and instructing the client to receive the information (col. 7, ll. 20-48), wherein the interactive programming is a movie. Further, the system of Hoarty readily supports plural clients (abstract); see also plural modulators (27). The gateway of Hoarty implements an IP addressing scheme for the server side and IHOP addresses for the client side (col. 14, ll. 49-55), clearly Hoarty demonstrates a system where the server and client protocols are different. The subscriber of Hoarty clearly transmits requests (control data) for video data (col. 5, ll. 11-15), as discussed in the IHOP addresses and IP schemes for translating. In response, the system management device receives requests from the

clients and placing information on a carrier (first transmission channel) assigned to the user, and instructing the video server to transmit and instructing the client to receive the information (col. 7, ll. 20-48).

Regarding claims 26, 27, 29, and 30, Hoarty recognizes the need to support multiple clients (col. 5, ll. 11-15), see also plural modulators (27).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,883,661 to Hoarty (Hoarty) in view of U.S. Patent 5,898,387 to Davis et al. (Davis) and U.S. Patent 5,414,455 to Hooper et al. (Hooper).

Regarding claims 1, Hoarty teaches television system implementing information services such as video on demand (col. 4, ll. 29-36) employing a communications gateway (fig. 8, label 26) that reads on the claimed proxy. The gateway implements an IP addressing scheme for the server side and IHOP addresses for the client side (col. 14, ll. 49-55), clearly Hoarty demonstrates a system where the server and client protocols are different, and incompatible in that the message from address information of the first message cannot without being converted. However, Hoarty is silent on changing the proxy when the server or client changes protocols. Davis teaches a

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gateway enclosure that permits changing interface cards in the gateway (claimed proxy) when either the server or client changes protocols (col. 1-2, ll. 65-9). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hoarty by changing the gateway when there is a change in the server or client protocol as taught by Davis in order to enable communication between the server and the client without changing the every server and client.

Hoarty teaches services such as video-on-demand, but is silent on control data for controlling a VOD server. As discussed above, Hoarty teaches separate IP addressing schemes. Hooper teaches control data for VOD, as VCR like commands such as reverse, forward, and pause (col. 3, ll. 41-46). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hoarty by using control data to control a VOD server as taught by Hooper in order to provide additional functionality and services to the user.

Regarding claim 2, Hoarty teaches a gateway, which reads on the claimed proxy, but is silent on using the same proxy used in different server/client environments. Davis teaches a gateway that is used in a variety of different environments simultaneously (i.e. broadband, LLEO, VHF/Telephony, radio, CEBus, PLC, etc.) (col. 2, ll. 38-45; col. 2, ll. 7-9).

Regarding claim 3, the combined system of Hoarty and Davis clearly improves the system by translating the different protocols to enable both systems to communicate.

Regarding claim 4, Hoarty teaches conversion of IHOP addresses to IP addresses, which do not correspond exactly since there exists a translation to convert the protocols due to dynamically changing channels (col. 13, ll. 6-19).

7. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,883,661 to Hoarty (Hoarty) in view of U.S. Patent 5,729,280 to Inoue et al. (Inoue).

Regarding claim 18, Hoarty teaches assigning channels to the user (col. 13, ll. 1-19), but is silent on reassigning a user to a different channel in the middle of an on-demand video. Inoue teaches changing to a different channel during an on-demand video (Abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hoarty by changing to a different channel during an on-demand video as taught by Inoue in order to conserve resources and provide a set of services to more users.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Y Koenig whose telephone number is (703) 306-0399. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (7:30 - 6:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on (703) 305-4380. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ayk



VIVEK SRIVASTAVA
PRIMARY EXAMINER